

Act is one such strategy that strives toward the ultimate goal of restoring the former vitality of our cities which can only help make our country stronger and more competitive. The days of expansive Federal aid are clearly past, but that is no excuse for the National Government to turn a blind eye to the problems of the cities.

The resolution follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 62—COMMERCIAL  
REVITALIZATION TAX CREDIT

Whereas, many American urban centers and rural areas are plagued by chronic economic distress, including aging infrastructure and business disinvestment; and

Whereas, to be successful in breaking the cycle of economic erosion, unemployment and abandonment of older neighborhoods, new measures must be taken to regenerate private investment; and

Whereas, new approaches must be fostered to address the problems of our cities; and

Whereas, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (TX) has introduced the Commercial Revitalization Tax Credit Act (CRTCA) of 1995 to encourage business investment and reinvestment in specially designated revitalization areas; and

Whereas, the CRTCA would offer a 20 percent tax credit in one year, or a 5 percent credit each year for 10 years, to defray the cost of business construction, expansion or rehabilitation in specially designated areas; and

Whereas, tax policies designed to target private entrepreneurial activities in declining urban and rural areas enjoy bipartisan support, Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That The United States Conference of Mayors strongly urges Congress to support this session the CRTCA; and be it further

*Resolved*, That The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to approve this credit this session at the full benefit level for which it is proposed.●

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to bring attention to the life of one of the 20th-century's most inspirational leaders, the anti-Nazi theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer. The author of numerous books, most notably, "The Cost of Discipleship" and "Letter and Papers From Prison," Mr. Bonhoeffer spent time in the United States as a student at Union Seminary in New York.

It was after his stay in the United States that Dietrich Bonhoeffer returned to his native Germany and voiced opposition to the practices of Hitler and his Nazi regime. As an ardent pacifist, not only did he speak out against Nazi terrors and propaganda, but Mr. Bonhoeffer was centrally involved in transporting Jews from Germany to Switzerland in an effort to spare them from the Nazis.

In 1943 Mr. Bonhoeffer was arrested and sent to the Buchenwald concentration camp. Then, at the age of 39, on April 9, 1945, just 2 days before the arrival of the Allied forces, Dietrich Bonhoeffer was hanged by the Nazis.

Despite Dietrich Bonhoeffer's heroics, he is still regarded by German law as a traitor. Ten years ago, Ger-

man Parliament condemned Nazi "people's courts" and voided their convictions. However, the declaration did not pertain to the SS courts, where Mr. Bonhoeffer was condemned. today, I formally urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support posthumous rehabilitation for Mr. Bonhoeffer and to urge the German Parliament to declare that all convictions by the SS courts were illegal.

Mr. President, Dietrich Bonhoeffer should serve as an inspiration to all of us for he sought change where change often times seemed impossible. He joined his church, and changed it. He lived in Nazi Germany where the message of a superior Aryan race separated man from man and thus man from God. But, rather than accept the Nazi dictatorship, he openly opposed Hitler and the regime. for his conviction to justice, equality, and peace, Dietrich Bonhoeffer had his life violently taken from him. Surely he deserves our best efforts to legally clear his name and to celebrate his legacy of courage and commitment.●

PROFESSIONAL SPORTS  
FRANCHISES IN SEATTLE

● Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, on February 2, the citizens of Seattle and of Washington State were dealt yet another low blow in their continuing struggle to maintain three professional sports franchises in Seattle. Unfortunately, it now seems that just as one team reaches the pinnacle of success in Seattle, another outsider owner of a local team decides that he no longer wishes to call Seattle its home. Last Friday, the owners of the Seattle Seahawks announced their intention to move the team from Seattle even though they have 10 years remaining on their contract with King County.

Why are they leaving? The Seahawk owners cite inadequate playing facilities and a lack of local government and community support. Lack of support? Consider the numerous years of sell-out crowds in the Kingdome. Consider the local and State subsidies that have supported this organization. If there is no community support, why did the Seahawk organization retire the No. 12 jersey? The number was retired in honor of all the Seahawak fans who have long served as the "twelfth man" on the Seahawks playing field. Lack of support?

As many of my colleagues may know, a great deal of my political career has been focused on maintaining a presence of professional sports franchises in Seattle. My involvement started late one evening in 1970, when the owners of the Seattle Pilots baseball team loaded their moving vans and headed east to Milwaukee, WI, after only 1 year in Seattle. As Washington State attorney, general, I successfully sued the American League to bring a new baseball club to Seattle in 1977—the Seattle Mariners—a suit that also resulted in the creation of the Toronto Blue Jays.

During its first 17 years of existence, the Mariner organization faced many of the expected challenges that confront any new sports franchise. This young baseball team was only able to produce two winning seasons in its first 17 years. While the adversity continued on the field, the difficulties facing the franchise off the field quickly became even more overwhelming. The Mariners organization suffered increasing financial losses, fueling speculation that the team would leave Seattle. All of the succession of Mariner owners were underfunded outsiders unable to take the risks necessary for success. Finally in 1992, the threat became a reality, and the owners of the Mariners announced their intentions to move the baseball team to Florida. The fans, myself included reacted. A provision in the Mariners' contract with King County prohibited the midnight-loading of the moving vans. This local-option provision required that prior to any relocation to another city, the team first be put up for sale for 120 days and sold to any local buyers with a reasonable offer. With on 2 weeks left before the 120-day period expired, local business and community leaders, myself included, were able to secure the local resources to purchase the Mariners and keep the Mariners safe at home.

Last fall, after 18 long years, the fans of Washington State, and the team they fought so hard to keep, were finally rewarded when the Seattle Mariners won the American League Western Division Title. This championship fever should be the reward for fans when they dedicate themselves to supporting a professional sports team, not what is currently happening in Seattle and Cleveland.

Unfortunately for the fans of professional sports team, today's loyalty and gratitude given to professional teams is being returned with seriously harsh slaps in the face. Looking for news of a sports franchise relocation? Just open a newspaper. Within the last 18 months, two professional football organizations have moved cities and three more have announced their intentions to move prior to the 1996 season.

Mr. President, something has got to be done to bring some stability back to professional sports. Some question the role of the Government in professional sports leagues. I do not. Professional sports franchises rely on Federal tax dollars, participate in interstate commerce, and affect millions of people across the country. I have no doubt that there is a role for the Federal Government in creating standards and expectations of behavior. That is why I have cosponsored the Fans' Rights Act with my colleagues from Ohio, Senator GLENN and Senator DEWINE.

The Fans' Rights Act, S. 1439, seeks to restore stability and integrity to the current chaos that marks franchise relocations. It does this by giving professional sports league officials the ability to enforce their own rules through a limited antitrust exemption. This